

Case 3372***Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 (Osteichthyes, Siluriformes): proposed precedence over *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the usage of the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 for a genus of South American freshwater catfishes (family PIMELODIDAE) highly valued as a food resource and often referred to as ‘Goliath Catfishes’. The name *Brachyplatystoma* has been continually used for over 110 years but is threatened by two senior subjective synonyms, *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858, which have been little used. It is proposed that the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 be given precedence over the names *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858 whenever these names are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Siluriformes; PIMELODIDAE; *Brachyplatystoma*; *Piramutana*; *Piratinga*; *Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*; catfish; South America.

1. The genus *Piratinga* was established by Bleeker (1858, p. 357) for two South American catfish species, *Bagrus reticulatus* Kner, 1858 (p. 376) and *Bagrus goliath* Kner, 1858. Bleeker (1862, p. 11) designated *Bagrus reticulatus* Kner, 1858 as the type species of *Piratinga* (see Eschmeyer, 1990). *Bagrus reticulatus* is considered as a junior subjective synonym of *Platystoma vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840 (Lundberg & Littman, 2003).

2. Bleeker (1858, pp. 355, 357) also introduced *Piramutana* for the South American catfish *Bagrus piramuta* Kner, 1858 (p. 382), which is the type species of the genus by monotypy. *Bagrus piramuta* is considered to be a junior subjective synonym of *Platystoma vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840 (Lundberg & Littman, 2003).

3. Bleeker (1862, p. 10) briefly described the genus *Brachyplatystoma* and designated its only included species, *Platystoma vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840 (p. 21), as the type (also by monotypy). Bleeker (1862, p. 11) also listed and redescribed *Piramutana* and *Piratinga*. Bleeker’s (1858) work was

overlooked by many subsequent authors who attributed *Piramutana* and *Piratinga* to Bleeker (1862). Jordan (1919) correctly cited Bleeker's (1858) work for both genera. Nevertheless, no one has treated *Brachyplatystoma* as a junior synonym of either *Piramutana* or *Piratinga*.

4. Günther (1864, p. 106) considered *Brachyplatystoma* as a junior synonym of *Platystoma* Agassiz in Spix & Agassiz, 1829 (p. 23) (generic name preoccupied in Diptera). Also, Günther (1864, pp. 110–112) treated both *Piramutana* and *Piratinga* as valid but incorrectly referenced them as Bleeker (1862).

5. Eigenmann & Eigenmann (1888, 1890) used both *Piramutana* and *Brachyplatystoma* but considered *Piratinga* as a junior synonym of *Brachyplatystoma*. These authors treated *Piramutana* as monotypic, and expanded *Brachyplatystoma* to include four species: *Platystoma vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840; *Pimelodus filamentosus* Lichtenstein, 1819; *Bagrus reticulatus* Kner, 1858; and *Bagrus rousseauxii* Castelnau, 1855.

6. Goeldi (1868) used *Piratinga* for *Bagrus rousseauxii* Castelnau, 1855 (with *Bagrus goliath* Kner, 1858 as a junior synonym) and a new species *Piratinga pirá-aíba*, without mention of the type species *Bagrus reticulatus* Kner, 1858. In 1900 the same author placed *Piratinga pirá-aíba* in synonymy with *Pimelodus filamentosus* Lichtenstein, 1819 and recognized two other species in the genus: *Bagrus goliath* Kner, 1858 and *Bagrus reticulatus* Kner, 1858.

7. *Piramutana* was listed by several authors during the 20th century: Eigenmann (1910), Jordan (1919), Fowler (1939, 1941, 1945, 1951), Eigenmann & Allen (1942), Gosline (1945), Burgess (1989), Eschmeyer (1990, 1998) and Lundberg et al. (1991). Among these, Fowler (1941, fig. 18, p. 380) misidentified *Platystoma mucosa* Vaillant, 1880 as *Piramutana piramuta* (Kner, 1858). Burgess (1989) reprinted Fowler's figure of *Platysilurus* along with a short description of *Piramutana piramuta* apparently based on Eigenmann & Eigenmann (1890).

8. In a review of 'goliath' catfishes, Miranda Ribeiro (1918) treated as congeneric *Brachyplatystoma*, *Piramutana* and *Piratinga* but gave seniority to *Brachyplatystoma* perhaps because of its page precedence in Bleeker (1862), the only Bleeker publication cited.

9. The genus *Brachyplatystoma* is well established in zoology, including especially fisheries biology and ecology, having been used by the following authors in the last 50 years: Lowe McConnell (1962), Mees (1974, 1986), Taylor (1977), Petrere (1978), Britski (1981), Goulding (1981), Barthem (1984), Mendes dos Santos et al. (1984), Castro (1986), Barriga (1991), Robins et al. (1991), Lundberg et al. (1991), Cervigón et al. (1992), Ferreira et al. (1996), Boujard et al. (1997), Barthem & Goulding (1997), Ferreira et al. (1998), Agudelo Cordoba et al. (2000), Le Bail et al. (2000), Ponton & Mérigoux (2001), Lundberg & Parisi (2002), Lundberg & Littman (2003), Chaves et al. (2003), Shibatta (2003), Lasso et al. (2004), Riede (2004) and Lundberg & Akama (2005). In the interest of stability we propose that the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 be given precedence over both *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858, whenever these names are considered to be synonyms. Therefore, the case is referred to the Commission under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the generic name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 precedence over *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858 whenever it and either of the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 (gender: neuter), type species by original designation *Platystoma vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840, with the endorsement that it is to be given priority over the names *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858 whenever it and either of these names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Bleeker (1862) *Bagrus reticulatus* Kner, 1858, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (c) *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Bagrus piramuta* Kner, 1858, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840, as published in the binomen *Platystoma vaillantii* (specific name of the type species of *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862);
 - (b) *reticulatus* Kner, 1858, as published in the binomen *Bagrus reticulatus* (specific name of the type species of *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858);
 - (c) *piramuta* Kner, 1858, as published in the binomen *Bagrus piramuta* (specific name of the type species of *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858).

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